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Message Text

SECRET

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:GTWOHIE
APPROVED BY: S/S-O:GTWOHIE
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 247815

EXDIS TODEP 43

FOLL REPEAT JIDDA 6558 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BRAZILIA BONN DHAHRAN
KINSHASA LONDON NEW DELHI PARIS TEHRAN TOKYO 10 NOV 74
QUOTE

S E C R E T JIDDA 6558

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENGR, SA, US, BR, FR
SUBJECT: SAUDI REACTION TO FRENCH PROPOSAL

REF: A. JIDDA 6443
B. SECTO 483
C. BRAZILIA 8420

BEGIN SUMMARY: KING FAYSAL DID NOT RESPOND TO FRENCH EMISSARIES' PROPOSAL TO ISSUE JOINT INVITATIONS TO CONSUMER-PRODUCER CONFERENCE. KING DID WELCOME FRENCH INITIATIVE BUT SAID SUBJECTS OF OTHER COMMODITIES WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN UP. SAUDIS UNAWARE FRENCH HAD ALREADY APPROACHED BRAZIL AND SURMISE THIS WAS NOT FORMAL INVITATION. END SUMMARY

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1. AHMAD ZAKI YAMANI, SAUDI MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, TOLD

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AMBASSADOR LAST MIGHT (NOV 8 THAT HIS TALK WITH
LIPKOWSKI WAS "FRIENDLY AND USEFUL." MR. LIPKOWSKI HAD
TOLD THE KING THAT THE FRENCH PLAN WAS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS
YAMANI'S--EVEN THE GUEST LIST WAS THE SAME--AND PROPOSED
THAT THE FRENCH AND THE SAUDIS ISSUE JOINT INVITATIONS
TO THE CONFERENCE.

2. YAMANI SAID HE PREPARED FOR THE KING HIS RESPONSE TO
THE FRENCH. FAISAL'S LETTER WELCOMED THE FRENCH INITIATIVE;
HE SAID HE THOUGHT THIS COULD BRING ALL PRODUCERS AND
CONSUMERS CLOSER TOGETHER, BUT ADDED THAT OTHER COMMODITIES
WOULD HAVE TO BE INCLUDED ON THE DISCUSSION. (YAMANI
SAID THE KING HIMSELF INSISTS ON THIS POINT AS IT
WOULD BE THE ONLY WAY OPEC--READ ALGIERS--APPROVAL FOR THE
CONFERENCE COULD BE WON; BUT HE REPEATED (REF A) THAT HE
DID NOT THINK THIS WOULD TAKE MUCH OF THE CONFERENCE TIME.
THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE FEARED THE OPPOSITE; THE WHOLE
CONFERENCE COULD BOG DOWN IN INTERMINABLE DISCUSSIONS OF
NICKEL PRICES--A SUBJECT PROBABLY DEAR TO THE HEART OF
ZAIRE).

3. THE KING DID NOT RPT NOT RESPOND TO THE FRENCH SUG-
GESTION FOR A JOINT SAUDI INVITATION.

4. YAMANI WAS SURPRISED WHEN THE AMBASSADOR TOLD HIM THAT
THE FRENCH HAD APPARENTLY ALREADY ASKED BRAZIL AND BRAZIL
HAD ACCEPTED. (REF C) YAMANI SAID HE THOUGHT IT MORE
PROBABLY THAT THE FRENCH HAD INFORMALLY INQUIRED OF
THE BRAZILIANS IF THEY MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN SUCH A
MEETING IF ONE WERE HELD. AS FAR AS HE KNEW, NO FORMAL
INVITATIONS HAD YET BEEN ISSUED, EXCEPT INSOFAR AS THE
FRENCH MESSAGE TO SAUDI ARABIA AND A SIMILAR MESSAGE
TO IRAN COULD BE CONSIDERED INVITATIONS.
AKINS
MUNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TODEP 43, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, IMPORTERS, EXPORTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE247815
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:GTWOHIE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740323-0947
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741155/aaaabutj.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: A. JIDDA 6443
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <01 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAUDI REACTION TO FRENCH PROPOSAL
TAGS: ENRG, SA, US, BR, FR
To: QUITO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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